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New Economic Approaches for a Coherent Post-2015 Agenda

Statement of the President of the Group of 77 and China

(Delivered by Juan Carlos Sánchez, Ecuador)

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**STATEMENT
PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM.
PRESIDENT OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA.
JUNE 25, 2013.**

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman,

First, allow me to express the thanks of the Group of 77 and China to the UNCTAD Secretariat for the organization of the Public Symposium, which has offered a truly enriching discussion space for our countries. I would like to pay special tribute to Mrs. Amel Haffouz, who has displayed a tireless work for this meeting to have the success we have witnessed.

Also, I want to thank to the great variety of panelists that we have heard over the past two days. Theirs contributions have conveyed valuable elements, which with no doubt will be useful to meet the challenges we have in the near future, especially for the generation of post-development framework 2015.

Mr. President,

The richness of the discussions we have witnessed during this two days makes it difficult to find a way to prioritize the different points expressed and to start this intervention on the way forward. Perhaps in the spirit of seeking to address first the structural elements, I should start with the financial and monetary issues, which constitute the blood flow of the international economic system.

At this point, I would like to emphasize that any development goal cannot be credible if they are not backed by the international monetary and financial system stability conditions needed to support the real economy. If we want to build a more equitable and enabling environment for development, it is necessary to move from a model based on profitability to another that revolves around productivity, a world in which the rewards go to productive effort instead to speculation.

To build a new development framework involves the generation of a global environment conducive to achieving the goals that arise from this process. There is no great value to achieve improvements in living standards, if soon after a financial crisis cannot only delete the gains acquired with much effort, but even worse it can leave the countries worse off, with particular impact on disadvantaged and vulnerable populations.

Mr. President,

The second point I would like to highlight is the need to overcome the approach that has prevailed over poverty reduction. The focus to date has been quantitative, based on the daily levels of income. Of course, the income variable is essential to overcome poverty, but not a sufficient condition to overcome it structurally.

In this sense, in the exercise which is currently holding the whole United Nations system to

generate the post-2015 development framework, it should be taken into account key elements at various levels, starting with the financial and monetary field, followed by the structural transformation of the economies of developing countries and ending with the creation of decent work, backed by a strengthening of the conditions of education, health and social safety nets. We must be ambitious if we want a result that is tangible and especially sustainable.

Obviously, we do not believe that the objectives arising from the post-2015 development framework could include variables in all the areas mentioned. However, if we do not take into account them in the preparatory work, we risk to limit the possibilities for these objectives to be met and especially to contribute to solve the situation of the poorest and most vulnerable populations.

Mr. President,

A third point that I would like to emphasize is the need that the process for the generation of the post-2015 development framework should be inclusive. For that, it will be necessary not only to encourage the participation of the countries and groups involved, but also to create the space for such countries and groups to participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of that framework.

Unfortunately, this was not the case in the preparation of the millennium development goals. Without denying the great contribution these goals have made in improving the living conditions of a considerable number of people in developing countries, we believe that the impact of any multilateral development-related target will be broader if it is allowed the participation and ownership by the countries and populations concerned.

Mr. President,

A fourth point I want to emphasize is the need to have objectives that encompass the three pillars of sustainable development. We must follow a holistic approach that gives equal importance to the economic, social and environmental areas. It has been over 20 years since the pioneering conference in Rio de Janeiro and in these years the environmental conditions have continued to deteriorate globally, so it is necessary to make an additional effort to ensure human development, but in respect and harmony with the natural environment.

At this point, I would like to mention that the process started in Rio +20 about the definition of sustainable development goals is closely linked to the generation of the post-2015 development framework, so that the conditions we are proposing in this statement fully apply to the objectives that will follow Rio +20.

Mr. President,

To finalize this statement, I would like to refer to the need of having a continued engagement and support of development partners to design and successfully implement the

development framework that we agree for post-2015. If we want to develop ambitious goals, we must have the means necessary to perform and for that it is essential to comply with the commitments made at summits and declarations that have addressed the issue of development.

As a distinguished panelist pointed out these days, the Group of 77 and China is the largest grouping of countries in the multilateral system, so we are fully prepared to participate in this process in the formats required. However, to summarize the points raised in this statement, our strong preference is to have a process that is holistic, inclusive and efficient.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.